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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Dinosaur Exhibit Roars Into Public Museum February 21, 2009,  
Becomes Extinct May 25**

Grand Rapids, MI (December 2, 2008) – Animatronic creatures will roar, leap and fly from comic and story book pages, the context of the silver screen and the simplicity of a playground sandbox when ***DINOSAURS: Just Imagine!*** opens at the Public Museum February 21, 2009. The scenes in this fantasy-fueled time travel exhibit, along with its companion planetarium show, ***Dinosaur Chronicles: History of the Earth***, will remind young and old of the power of imagination.

The Public Museum staff will turn back the clock millions of years to show lifelike creatures juxtaposed against unique backdrops that will start minds racing. For when dinosaurs are the subject matter, even paleontologists will agree, much of what we “think we know” is subject to imagination and interpretation. Visitors will see examples of:

- Albertosaurus or “Alberta Lizard,” thought to be a distant relative of *Tyrannosaurus rex*
- Deinonychus or “Terrible Claw,” an agile hunter from the Early Cretaceous period
- Maiasaura or “Good Mother Lizard,” with its bird-like parenting behaviors
- Pachycephalosaurus or “Thick-Headed Lizard,” with its solid bone skull
- Apatosaurus or “Deceptive Lizard,” an adept treetop forager with its long neck and small head
- Pteranodon or “Winged and Toothless”, not a dinosaur, but a flying reptile which ruled the sky
- Euoplocephalus or “Well-Armoured Head” with its protective spike-covered exterior

The exhibit includes several interactive stations where kids can make believe. They can erect 3D dinosaur skeletons, get their hands dirty in the dig box, work the controls of a mechanical Duckbill and try their hand at the dino rub station. They can also explore some of the books that inspired the exhibit including *Danny and the Dinosaur* by Syd Hoff, *Raptors!* by Lisa McCourt and *Tyrannosaurus Reg* by Dan Crisp.



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The Grand Rapids Jaycees Foundation recently announced a \$20,000 gift to the Public Museum which will expand evening hours during the exhibit run. Normally closed at 5 pm, the Museum will stay open until 8 pm during **GR Jaycees Foundation DINOSAUR Discovery Nights**: February 23, 24, 25, 26; March 16, 17, 18, 19, 20; April 6, 7, 8, 9, 10; and May 4, 5, 6, 7. GR Jaycees Foundation Dinosaur Discovery Night ticket packages include Museum admission, a planetarium show, a pizza meal, unlimited carousel rides and special exhibit admission for just \$10 per adult or child. (Member price is \$5.)

The ***DINOSAURS: Just Imagine!*** exhibit and ***Dinosaur Chronicles*** planetarium show will run through May 25, 2009. In addition to weekend programs and Spring Break activities there will be a special Members-Only Preview Event on Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, the evening before the exhibit opens to the public.

The Public Museum hours are Monday – Saturday 9 am – 5pm, and Sunday 12-5 pm. Admission to the exhibit is \$2 and to the planetarium show is \$3 in addition to general Museum admission (Adults \$8, Seniors \$7, Children \$3. Members are free.) For more information call 616/456-3977 or go to [grmuseum.org](http://grmuseum.org).

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